Andrew Duncan meets TV's odd couple Peter Capaldi & Jenna Coleman - and finds they share a deep love

Their relationship is at the heart of the show and, he explains, "It has no equivalent in TV or fiction, a friendship between an alien creature and an extremely bright, clever and brave young woman. It's unusual for a man of my age to be friendly with such a youthful lady. She wants to go out into the universe and enjoy herself, happy to be reckless and in danger. I was so lucky it was Jenna because it might not have worked with anyone else. It's tricky to come into a long-established show, especially as the lead, and Jenna has proved to be a wonderful actress and friend."

She recalls they had lunch together after the hype and secrecy surrounding his role. "I'd no idea who would take over from Matt Smith, and when I was told it was Peter, it was one of those 'aha, that makes sense' moments."

"Age made no difference - he's an alien!"

"I'm the same person I was when I wasn't a sex symbol."

Peter Capaldi and Jenna Coleman exclusively photographed for Radio Times by Richard Grassie.
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on the verge of packing up acting and selling the family home in north London after being out>

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He knows Smith was leaving when she joined the cast three years ago. "I was really excited to start a new relationship with Peter although it was scary. The Doctor, who is my best friend, is not only in a different body, but he's also getting to know himself. Age made no difference. He's an alien. We're not lovey-dovey. Everything is more about what is unsaid, rather than said. Clara may seem like a control freak, but she's trying to control the uncontrollable."

"It's a difficult show to act," he says. "It goes from B-movie sci-fi to Freudian drama and tragedy. There's romance, pantomime, humour and sadness, so you're kept on your toes. I try not to be too romantic or sentimental. Sometimes Jenna will run down a corridor shouting, 'Doctor, there's a monster' and stuff. Part of the

"There's no romance but there is deep love" PETER CAPALDI

tradition is that sets wobble and you have to fight a giant spider made of rubber. I enjoy that. It's not so well budgeted as viewers might think [each episode takes 12 days to produce] but it looks great because of the talent of the people working on it."

Earlier this year they did a worldwide promotional tour. "We spend nine months filming in Cardiff [at Roath Lock, BBC Wales's 170,000ft² facility], talking to aliens, in our own little world," she says, "and then go somewhere like South Korea and we're greeted with such enthusiasm."

He looks at once mortified, surprised and pleased. He's also become a sex symbol. "Unbelievable," he says. "When you're famous, people say things about you. I'm the same person I was when I wasn't a sex symbol. Fame is such a privilege and any downside is a small price to pay. It's slightly different, though, because people think they're meeting Doctor Who, an icon, and not me."

"I get that directed at me, too," she says. "It's recognition associated with a show that people like, which is nice."

He failed his first interview for drama school. "I was dreadful, but then I got lucky. I knew nothing about acting - my family went to pantomime at Christmas, and that was it - but I thought it would be good fun because I liked watching telly. I came to London at 17 and the whole thing was terrifying. I moved into a world that was utterly different. At 36 I returned to his flat "a wee bit drunk", where his landlady, a costume designer, was talking to film director Bill Forsyth, who cast him as an amiable geek in the highly successful Local Hero.

A FEW YEARS LATER Capaldi directed a comic film for BBC Scotland, Franz Kafka's It's a Wonderful Life, which won a Bafta and an Oscar for best live action short film in 1995. "I only did it to explore my creativity, then everyone said, 'Are you going to be a film director?' which I didn't want to be. I have an arts school background, so my ethos is: you have a go at everything and if you keep your eyes open and are lucky, you learn. Sometimes you're good, sometimes not. I shiver when I recall how arrogantly I behaved, but I was probably just stupid. When you're young, you are stupid - apart from you, Jenna."

"Thank you," she smiles.

After success, failure - a few weeks after winning his Oscar he was back directing a dog-food commercial in a Rickmansworth field. "All actors go through ups and downs and walk in the deep shadow of failure. I like to talk about it, unlike most who think it somehow means you're not successful. My failures taught me more than any success and made me wise. There are profound things I won't go into. Working with others, I learnt to rely on myself. There are a lot of high priests, Aztecs, in this business, who profess to have the answers. When you realise they don't, it's a remarkable feeling." He was on the verge of packing up acting and selling the family home in north London after being out>
THE MAGICIAN'S APPRENTICE

Directed By HETTIE MACDONALD

"What's a confession day?"

"In your terms, a will. This is the last will and testament of the Time Lord known as the Doctor."

A final message from a dying scientist. A plea from the dead池ess on time and space. Only one man can answer, but he has gone missing from all of time and space. Is the Doctor? Friends and enemies alike can find him nowhere. At the skies of planet Earth stand frozen, Clara Oswald enters into a dangerous alliance.

Even when the Doctor can't track down their ancient foe, and the Doctor's old friends and nemesis, Missy, is forced to ask for help, does it mean that the mad man in the box has truly disappeared? What fear, or what terrible shame, could possibly drive the Doctor into the shadows? The answers are more dreadful than Clara's worst imaginings, and she finds herself embarking on a journey into the Doctor's worst nightmares.

What dangers lie ahead for the Doctor and Clara? The creative chief gives us the lowdown.

THE WITCH'S FAMILIAR

Directed By METTIE MACDONALD

"I'm going to be the Doctor's enemy."

"I'm the Master." He is trapped. He's a prisoner of the creatures who hate him most in the universe. Between us and him is everything the greatest warrior race in history can throw at us.

"Doctor. Hello. Can I just say: huge fan."

"Sorry, but I can't accept."

"I mean it because I know it's true."

"It's impossible! It's evil! I hate it! It's astonishing!"

"I want to kiss it to death."

"The Doctor and the Osgood find themselves fugitives in a London where no one can be trusted - but the wily old Time Lord knows there is one last hope for peace. Because this box in the black archive isn't any old box. It is an Osgood Box."

SLEEP NO MORE

Written By MARK GATISS

"There have always been rumours. Stories passed from traveller to traveller, muttered about in dark corners, secret pockets of alien life right here on Earth."

"Have you ever found yourself in a street you've never seen before? The next day, could you not find that street again? You weren't dreaming. Your memory isn't playing tricks. Like many lost souls throughout the ages, you have stumbled on an extraordinary secret - be grateful you survived it."

THE ZYGON INVASION

Written By PETER HARNESS

"Operation Double is a covert operation, outside of normal Unit structures, to reengineer and rehouse an alien race, in secrecy, on planet Earth."

A long time ago, the Doctor made a deal in the Tower of London. Twenty million Zygons walk among us, in human form, living undetected in peace and harmony. But cracks are showing in this delicate peace. Humans and Zygons are forever thrust into city apartment blocks, lifts are going missing, and far below the streets of Britain, alien pods are growing in secret caverns. Unit's peace. Because that box in the black archive isn't any old box. It is an Osgood Box."

HELL BENT

Written By STEVEN MOFFAT

""It is a sea song?"

"Nothing's said till it's over. I'm silence."

"What's it called?"

"They called it Clara."

"Tell me about her."

"If you took everything from him, and betrayed him, and trapped him, and broke both his hearts... how far might the Doctor go? It is time, at last, for the Doctor's confession.

THE ZIPZIE INVASION

Written By PETER HARNESS & STEVEN MOFFAT

"Humans cannot accept the way we see ourselves. It is, if we cannot hide, we must fight. You're going to be the first. You're going to be the first to make the humans see."

The future of planet Earth is sealed in a box in Unit's dark archives, and only the Doctor knows what's inside. With UNIT under ZYGON control, and Clara lost,